

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Yasuhiko SHIINA et al.

Group Art Unit : 1645

Appl. No. : 10/573,324

Examiner : Oluwatosin OGUNBIYI

I. A. Filed : September 24, 2004

**Confirmation No. : 4957**

For : METHOD OF DETECTING OR DIFFERENTIATING RHEUMATOID  
ARTHRITIS AND METHOD OF DETERMINING STAGE OF  
DISEASE OR DEGREE OF DYSFUNCTION WITH REGARD TO  
RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

This is in response to the Office Action mailed August 5, 2009 which sets a three-month shortened statutory period for response, to end November 5, 2009.

Applicants respectfully submit that this response is timely filed and no fee is required for its consideration. However, Applicants hereby authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to charge any required fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Entry of the instant amendments and remarks, with reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are shown in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2.

**Remarks** begin on page 6.